(d) what is their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Government do not allow bifurcation of LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as a matter of policy.

(b) During the last three years, OMCs have not bifurcated any LPG distributorship.

(c) and (d) The following LPG agencies have applied for bifurcation on compassionate grounds but their request cannot be considered as per extant policy:—

(i) M/s Aggarwal Gas Service, Jalandhar, Punjab.

(ii) M/s United Gas Company, Ghaziabad, U.P.

(iii) M/s Maur Gas Service, Maur, Punjab.

Dismantling of Oil Selection Boards

4340. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dismantled Oil Selection Boards with the dismantling of APM;

(b) the number of Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards who have resigned so far ever since retired judges of the High Courts have been appointed as Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards;

(c) the number of Chairmen of the Oil Selection Boards who have been dismissed ever since High Court judges have been appointed as Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards; and

(d) the reasons for the resignation and dismissal of the Chairmen of the Oil Selection Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) It has been decided by the Government that in view of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) shall continue selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlet

dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships of the Oil Marketing Companies only for those locations for which advertisements have been issued till 31.3.2002. The concerned DSBs shall complete the dealer selection process for all such locations by 30.9.2002. Thereafter, the DSBs shall wind up operations within 14 days of the last interview.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oilfield near Nazira

4341. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new oilfield near Nazira has been explored by ONGC; and

(b) if so, the expected production of crude oil and natural gas from this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first well drilled Nazira structure was dry. The strike well Nazira is found to be oil and gas bearing and has been put on production since January, 2002. The third well drilled on the structure has also been found to be oil bearing. The production potential of the field will be known after assessment.

Gas-grid

4342. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for having a gas-grid in the country;

(b) if not, the step taken to maintain regional balance in the gas-usage for industrial, commercial and domestic purposes in the country;

(c) whether the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa are feeling seriously handicapped in industrialization because of absence of gas as feed stock; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to bring these States in the Gas Map of India?